

**PSYCHOSOCIAL EFFECTS ON FEMALE SEX WORKERS THAT
CONTRIBUTE TO SEX TRADE IN KIAMBU COUNTY, KENYA**

ANNE WANJIRU MBUGUA

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ABSTRACT

Findings show that Kiambu County has a large number of female sex workers (FSW) ranking third in the country after Nairobi and Mombasa. Currently, data is reliable from known sources as compared to yester years when the society could not discuss such issues as sex work. This research study investigated the psychosocial effects that contribute to sex trade. The study aimed at establishing and formulating effective policy interventions to reverse the trends of the psychological torture on these women. The research study relied on already collected data at sub- county offices and the researcher reached out to these women and assessed their psychological effects. The researcher dwelt mostly on already formed groups that have sought registration as women groups and in actual sense are operating as sex workers, under the guise of self-help groups to avoid being arrested. This research study used questionnaires, personal interview, observation, group focus and content analysis. The sample was obtained by a combination of stratified and purposive random sampling techniques. Data collected was coded in statistical package for social sciences and analyzed by descriptive statistics. Gender based HIV/AIDS and other institutions had data on the number of FSW and this information elevated the study into higher levels. From the finding, the study found that concluded that the first born female girls engage in sex work which may be attributed to expectation of financial support or any other kind of support expected from them by their parents or within the society while the other may engage in sex due to large number in the family. The study concluded that most of the attained secondary certificate. This depicts that most of the female sex workers had attained that can help them to change to the society acceptable behaviour if given adequate guidance. The study found that most of the sex workers were not financially stable hence they resolved to engage in sex work to cater for their siblings and give financial support to their guardians. Finally the study established that most of the sex workers were females and none was transgender, according to kikuyu practices not a must for a girl to undergo FGM more particularly in central region where the study was carried out.